

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A plating bath precursor as in Claim 14 17, wherein the second metal ions are one or more metal ions selected from nickel, cobalt, gold, silver, copper, palladium, platinum, indium, tin, lead, antimony, cadmium, zinc, and iron ions.

16. (Previously Presented) A plating bath precursor as in Claim 15, wherein the concentration of ions of said first metal is at least 0.001 mole/liter.

17. (Currently Amended) A plating bath precursor comprising first and second metal ions, complex forming agent and stabilizer forming a redox system, said plating bath precursor comprising one or more first metal ions selected from a tetravalent titanium ion (Ti^{4+}), a trivalent cobalt ion (Co^{3+}) and a tetravalent tin ion (Sn^{4+}), being stabilized against reduction and deposition of the second metal ions, and prior to using the first metal ions are reduced from said higher oxidation state to said lower oxidation state to thereby activate the plating bath.